

Message Text

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20

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 040145Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6449

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8824

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT VS

SUBJECT: AP PRESS INQUIRY

PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON (S/PRS)

1. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF INQUIRY RECEIVED FROM HEAD EDITORIAL OFFICE AP NEW YORK AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE. IN VIEW OF STRONG CRITICISM IN U.S. CONGRESS ON SOVIET RESTRICTIONS OF JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM USSR, WHAT ACTION IS U.S. EMBASSY SAIGON TAKING TO GET GVN TO LIBERALIZE ITS EMIGRATION POLICIES. UNQUOTE.

3. QUOTE. IF EMBASSY IS TAKING NO ACTION, HOW DOES IT JUSTIFY THIS HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE? UNQUOTE.

4. EMBASSY NOT CERTAIN FROM ABOVE TEXT JUST EXACTLY WHAT AP DESIRES. READ LITERALLY THE CORRECT ANSWER WOULD BE THAT THE GVN KNOWS OF NO SOVIET JEWS IN VIET-NAM, BUT IF THERE ARE ANY THERE ARE NO BARS TO THE EMIGRATION OF THOSE WHO WOULD WISH TO LEAVE. GVN MAINTAINS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND CHECK WITH ISRAELI EMBASSY REVEALS NO PROBLEM BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. U.S. EMBASSY WOULD CERTAINLY SEE NO REASON WHATEVER TO INTER-
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VENCE, NOR ANY REASON WHATEVER TO JUSTIFY ITS HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE.

5. IF AP INQUIRY IS ADDRESSED TO GENERAL PROBLEM OF GVN EMIGRATION POLICIES, WE KNOW OF NO EXCEPTIONAL RESTRICTIONS TO EMIGRATION WHICH ARE NOT COMMON TO OTHER COUNTRIES ON A WARTIME FOOTING, INCLUDING OUR OWN.

6. IF AP INQUIRY RELATED TO RECENT INCIDENT IN HONG KONG, THAT IS, OF COURSE, MATTER BETWEEN GVN AND HK. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, HONG KONG AUTHORITIES AGREED AFTER CAREFUL INVESTIGATION THAT 119 SOUTH VIETNAMESE CITIZENS OF CHINESE ORIGIN HAD BROKEN LAWS OF BOTH THE GVN AND OF HONG KONG IN ILLEGALLY LEAVING THE RVN AND IN ILLEGALLY ATTEMPTING TO ENTER HONG KONG WITHOUT PERMISSION. AS WE UNDERSTAND SITUATION MOST, IF NOT ALL, WERE ATTEMPTING TO AVOID MILITARY DRAFT OR TO EVADE PUNISHMENT FOR ALLEGED SMUGGLING OR OTHER EVASION OF FISCAL AND TAX LAWS OF THE GVN. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ACTUAL SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN IN VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW HAD THESE 119 PEOPLE BEEN CITIZENS OF THE U.S. AND HAD ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE THE U.S. ILLEGALLY UNDER EXACTLY SAME CIRCUMSTANCES. TO THE BEST OF EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, DESPITE ATTEMPTS OF USUAL PROPAGANDA DISTORTIONS FROM USUAL SOURCES, HONG KONG'S DETERMINATION, APPROVED BY LONDON, WE UNDERSTAND, THAT THERE NO QUESTION OF "POLITICAL" INVOLVEMENT IN THIS CASE IS COMPLETELY CORRECT.

7. IF THIS DOES NOT COVER WHAT AUTHOR OF INQUIRY HAD IN MIND PLEASE LET US KNOW AND WE WILL TRY AGAIN.
MARTIN

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